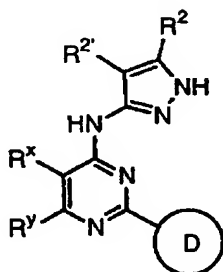


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 26 and please cancel claims 11, 12, 21, and 22 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula IV:



IV

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

Ring D is a 5-7 membered monocyclic ring or 8-10 membered bicyclic ring selected from aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or carbocyclyl, said heteroaryl or heterocyclyl ring having 1-4 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, wherein Ring D is independently substituted at any substitutable ring carbon by oxo or $-R^5$, and at any substitutable ring nitrogen by $-R^4$, provided that when Ring D is a six-membered aryl or heteroaryl ring, $-R^5$ is hydrogen at each ortho carbon position of Ring D;

R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a fused, unsaturated or partially unsaturated, 5-8 membered ring having 1-3 ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen, wherein any substitutable carbon on said fused ring is optionally and independently substituted by $T-R^3$, and any substitutable nitrogen on said ring is substituted by R^4 ;

T is a valence bond or a C_{1-4} alkylidene chain;

R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are independently selected from $-R$, $-T-W-R^6$;

R^3 is selected from $-R$, $-halo$, $=O$, $-OR$, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-COCH_2COR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-S(O)_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$, $-N(R^4)CO_2$ (optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic), $-N(R^4)N(R^4)_2$, $-C=NN(R^4)_2$, $-C=N-OR$, $-N(R^4)CON(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-N(R^4)SO_2R$, or $-OC(=O)N(R^4)_2$;

each R is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from C₁₋₆ aliphatic, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, a heteroaryl ring having 5-10 ring atoms, or a heterocyclyl ring having 5-10 ring atoms;

each R⁴ is independently selected from -R⁷, -COR⁷, -CO₂(optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic), -CON(R⁷)₂, or -SO₂R⁷, or two R⁴ on the same nitrogen are taken together to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring;

each R⁵ is independently selected from -R, halo, -OR, -C(=O)R, -CO₂R, -COCOR, -NO₂, -CN, -S(O)R, -SO₂R, -SR, -N(R⁴)₂, -CON(R⁴)₂, -SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -OC(=O)R, -N(R⁴)COR, -N(R⁴)CO₂(optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic), -N(R⁴)N(R⁴)₂, -C=NN(R⁴)₂, -C=N-OR, -N(R⁴)CON(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂R, or -OC(=O)N(R⁴)₂;

V is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -N(R⁶)SO₂-, -SO₂N(R⁶)-, -N(R⁶)-, -CO-, -CO₂-, -N(R⁶)CO-, -N(R⁶)C(O)O-, -N(R⁶)CON(R⁶)-, -N(R⁶)SO₂N(R⁶)-, -N(R⁶)N(R⁶)-, -C(O)N(R⁶)-, -OC(O)N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂O-, -C(R⁶)₂S-, -C(R⁶)₂SO-, -C(R⁶)₂SO₂-, -C(R⁶)₂SO₂N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)C(O)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)C(O)O-, -C(R⁶)=NN(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)=N-O-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)SO₂N(R⁶)-, or -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)CON(R⁶)-;

W is -C(R⁶)₂O-, -C(R⁶)₂S-, -C(R⁶)₂SO-, -C(R⁶)₂SO₂-, -C(R⁶)₂SO₂N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)-, -CO-, -CO₂-, -C(R⁶)OC(O)-, -C(R⁶)OC(O)N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)CO-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)C(O)O-, -C(R⁶)=NN(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)=N-O-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)SO₂N(R⁶)-, -C(R⁶)₂N(R⁶)CON(R⁶)-, or -CON(R⁶)-;

each R⁶ is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ aliphatic group, or two R⁶ groups on the same nitrogen atom are taken together with the nitrogen atom to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclyl or heteroaryl ring; and

each R⁷ is independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic group, or two R⁷ on the same nitrogen are taken together with the nitrogen to form a 5-8 membered heterocyclyl ring or heteroaryl.

2. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound has one or more features selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;

- (b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring heteroatoms; and
- (c) R^z is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is T-W- R^6 or R, wherein W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$, and R is an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic or phenyl.

3. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 2, wherein:

- (a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from a phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, thienyl, azepanyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl ring;
- (b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form an optionally substituted 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring heteroatoms; and
- (c) R^z is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is T-W- R^6 or R, wherein W is $-C(R^6)_2O-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)-$, $-CO-$, $-CO_2-$, $-C(R^6)OC(O)-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)CO-$, $-C(R^6)_2N(R^6)C(O)O-$, or $-CON(R^6)-$, and R is an optionally substituted group selected from C_{1-6} aliphatic or phenyl.

4. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 2, wherein said compound has one or more features selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;
- (b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, wherein said ring is optionally substituted with -R, halo, oxo, -OR, $-C(=O)R$, $-CO_2R$, $-COCOR$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-S(O)R$, $-SO_2R$, $-SR$, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-CON(R^4)_2$, $-SO_2N(R^4)_2$, $-OC(=O)R$, $-N(R^4)COR$,

- N(R⁴)CO₂(optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic), -N(R⁴)N(R⁴)₂, -C=NN(R⁴)₂, -C=N-OR, -N(R⁴)CON(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂R, or -OC(=O)N(R⁴)₂; and
- (c) each R⁵ is independently selected from halo, oxo, CN, NO₂, -N(R⁴)₂, -CO₂R, -CONH(R⁴), -N(R⁴)COR, -SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂R, -SR, -OR, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, or C₁₋₆ aliphatic.

5. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 4, wherein:

- (a) Ring D is an optionally substituted ring selected from phenyl, pyridinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-isoindolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, or naphthyl;
- (b) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 5-7 membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, wherein said ring is optionally substituted with -R, halo, oxo, -OR, -C(=O)R, -CO₂R, -COCOR, -NO₂, -CN, -S(O)R, -SO₂R, -SR, -N(R⁴)₂, -CON(R⁴)₂, -SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -OC(=O)R, -N(R⁴)COR, -N(R⁴)CO₂(optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic), -N(R⁴)N(R⁴)₂, -C=NN(R⁴)₂, -C=N-OR, -N(R⁴)CON(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂R, or -OC(=O)N(R⁴)₂; and
- (c) each R⁵ is independently selected from halo, oxo, CN, NO₂, -N(R⁴)₂, -CO₂R, -CONH(R⁴), -N(R⁴)COR, -SO₂N(R⁴)₂, -N(R⁴)SO₂R, -SR, -OR, -C(O)R, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, or C₁₋₆ aliphatic.

6. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 4, wherein said compound has one or more features selected from the group consisting of:

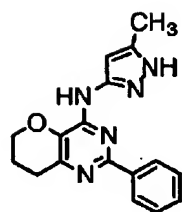
- (a) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 6-membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, optionally substituted with halo, CN, oxo, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, (C₁₋₆ alkyl)carbonyl, (C₁₋₆ alkyl)sulfonyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

- (b) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, -oxo, -SR, -OR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C(O)R$, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, and C_{1-6} aliphatic; and
- (c) R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzo, pyrido, or partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring optionally substituted with -halo, oxo, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), -CN, $-SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-SO_2NH_2$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, $-NH_2SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-C(O)NH_2$, or $-CO(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), wherein the (C_{1-4} alkyl) is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl group.

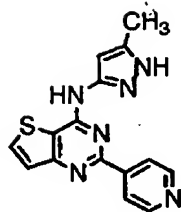
7. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 6, wherein:

- (a) R^x and R^y are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a 6-membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated ring having 1-2 ring nitrogens, optionally substituted with halo, CN, oxo, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, (C_{1-6} alkyl)carbonyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl)sulfonyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl;
- (b) each R^5 is independently selected from -halo, -CN, -oxo, -SR, -OR, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C(O)R$, or a substituted or unsubstituted group selected from 5-6 membered heterocyclyl, C_{6-10} aryl, and C_{1-6} aliphatic; and
- (c) R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are taken together with their intervening atoms to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzo, pyrido, or partially unsaturated 6-membered carbocyclo ring optionally substituted with -halo, oxo, $-N(R^4)_2$, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-O(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), -CN, $-SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-SO_2NH_2$, $-OC(O)NH_2$, $-NH_2SO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $-C(O)NH_2$, or $-CO(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), wherein the (C_{1-4} alkyl) is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl group.

8. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein said compound is selected from the following Table 3 compounds:



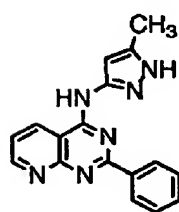
IV-18



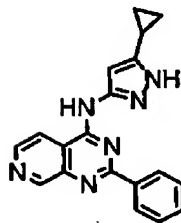
IV-29



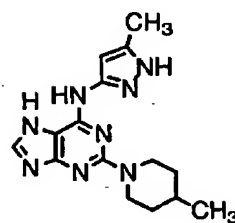
IV-30



IV-31



IV-32



IV-33.

9. (previously presented) A composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1-8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 9 further comprising a second therapeutic agent selected from an agent for treating diabetes, a chemotherapeutic agent or anti-proliferative agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an immunomodulatory or immunosuppressive agent, a neurotrophic factor, an agent for treating cardiovascular disease, and agent for treating liver disease, an anti-viral agent, or an agent for treating a blood disorder.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) A method of inhibiting GSK-3 or Aurora activity in a biological sample comprising contacting said biological sample with the compound according to claim 1.

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (original) A method of enhancing glycogen synthesis in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises the step of administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.

20. (original) A method of lowering blood levels of glucose in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises the step of administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.

21. (cancelled) A method of inhibiting the production of hyperphosphorylated Tau protein in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises the step of administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.

22. (cancelled) A method of inhibiting the phosphorylation of β -catenin in a patient in need thereof, which method comprises the step of administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.

23. (cancelled).

24. (cancelled).

25. (cancelled).

26. (currently amended). A method of treating a disease in a patient, wherein said disease is ~~selected from melanoma, lymphoma, neuroblastoma, leukemia, or a cancer selected from colon, breast, lung, kidney, ovary, pancreatic, renal, CNS, cervical, prostate, or cancer of the gastric~~

~~treat~~ or ovarian cancer said method comprising the step of administering to said patient a composition according to claim 9.

27. (previously presented) A method of treating diabetes in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.

28. (previously presented) A method of treating schizophrenia in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 9.